

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 /071 W
----- 043137

R 120640Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3796

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: MORE STUDENT FERMENT - EVENTS AND "NON-EVENTS"

REF : JAKARTA 2942

1. RENEWED THOUGH GENERALLY LOW-KEY STUDENT ACTIVISM REPORTED REFTEL (AND PREVIOUS) IS CONTINUING AND HAS BEEN GIVEN NEW IMPETUS BY TWIN ECONOMIC ISSUES OF GOI ANTI-SMUGGLING CAMPAIGN AND APRIL 1 DOMESTIC FUEL PRICE INCREASES. STUDENT DELEGATIONS FROM BANDUNG (11 UNIVERSITIES), BOGOR (AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE) AND JAKARTA (UNIVERSITY INDONESIA) HAVE CALLED ON PARLIAMENTARY LEADERS AND GOI OFFICIALS WITHIN PAST WEEK. FIRST TWO DELEGATIONS OPPOSED FUEL PRICE RISES, WHILE UI DELEGATION CALLED FOR FURTHER GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST SMUGGLING AND CORRUPTION. BANDUNG AND UI DELEGATIONS SUBMITTED STATEMENTS TO PARLIAMENT BOTH OF WHICH INCLUDED CALL FOR PARLIAMENT TO BETTER EXERCISE ITS FUNCTION OF REPRESENTING INTERESTS OF PEOPLE.

2. ACCORDING PRESS SOURCES, BANDUNG AND BOGOR STUDENT PROTESTS OF FUEL PRICE INCREASES INCLUDED PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS IN BOTH CITIES FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRICE INCREASES

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TIONS IN BOTH CITIES FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRICE INCREASES

APRIL 1. BANDUNG DEMONSTRATION REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN SHORT POSTPONEMENT BY LOCAL PERTAMINA (STATE OIL COMPANY) OFFICIALS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PRICE INCREASES, UNTIL LOCAL AUTHORITIES PROVIDED ASSURANCES INCREASES WOULD NOT BE RESISTED. NEITHER DEMONSTRATION WAS REPORTED IN JAKARTA PRESS (ALTHOUGH ONE MEDAN DAILY RAN STORY ON BANDUNG DEMONSTRATION).

3. COMMENT: REFTEL CAVEAT THAT STUDENT ACTIVISM SHOWS NO SIGNS OF BOILING OVER STILL APPLIES. WITH EXPANSION OF PROTEST TOPICS FROM STUDENT FREEDOMS TO ECONOMIC QUESTIONS SUCH AS FUEL PRICES WHICH DIRECTLY AFFECT GENERAL PUBLIC INCLUDING PARTICULARLY THE POOR, HOWEVER, POSSIBILITY OF SPILLOVER FROM A STUDENT ACTIVITIES INCREASES; SO CLEARLY DOES SENSITIVITY OF GOI, AS ILLUSTRATED BY OBVIOUS OFFICIAL ORDERS TO PRESS TO TREAT BANDUNG AND BOGOR DEMONSTRATIONS AS "NON-EVENTS".
NEWSOM

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